

CITY OF BATTLE CREEK

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

10 North Division, Battle Creek, MI 49014

Minutes for Monday, July 10, 2023

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: By Chairperson Newman at 4:00 p.m.

This meeting was held in-person.

ATTENDANCE: A roll call was taken:

Comm. Drozdowski, Present

Comm. Newman, Present

Comm. Simpson, Present

Comm. Davis, Present

Comm. Sallee, Present

Comm. Thornton, Present

Comm. Steinbrunner, Present

Staff Present: Melody Carlsen, Administrative Assistant, Travis Sullivan, City Planner, Marcel Stoetzel, Deputy City Attorney.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of June 12, 2023 minutes.

MOTION MADE BY COMM. DROZDOWSKI TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR JUNE 12, 2023 MEETING MINUTES, SECONDED BY COMM. THORNTON.

A vote was taken and all those in favor to signify “aye”: ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION APPROVED.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. H05-23 (265 NE Capital Ave)

The petition, filed by Joe Rocha for a Certificate of Appropriateness for property located at 265 NE Capital Avenue, Battle Creek for the construction of a new garage in rear yard. Parcel #1640-00-062-0.

Application Presentation: Travis Sullivan presented the Staff Report for property located at 265 NE Capital Ave. The applicant has filed the subject HDC Certificate of Appropriateness application for the construction of a new 40' x 36' garage in the rear yard of the property. The garage meets the standard outlined in Chapter 1470.06 “Review of Applications,” Chapter 1470.17 “Preservation of Historic Features” and the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines. Staff recommends approval.

Applicant Presentation: Joe Rocha, was present to speak and answer Commissioner’s questions.

COMMENTS BY COMMISSINERS AND STAFF MEMBERS:

Commissioner Davis inquired about the location of the new garage and to whether it would be located where the original carriage house was once located and to which type of materials would be used.

Commissioner Drozdowski inquired about the tenants using the parking lot and what the garage will be used for.

MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER THORNTON FOR THE APPROVEL OF ITEM H05-23 AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER THORNTON.

ROLL VOTE WAS TAKEN: ALL INFAVOR, NONE OPPOSED. MOTION APPROVED.

B. H06-23 (32 Woodmer Ln)

Petition, filed by Roach Home Improvements for a Certificate of Appropriateness for property located at 32 Woodmer Lane, Battle Creek for the construction of a deck on back of the home. Parcel #5390-00-030-0.

Application Presentation: Travis Sullivan presented the Staff Report for property located 32 Woodmer Lane. The applicant has filed the subject HDC Certificate of Appropriateness application for a freestanding deck. The deck meets the standards outlined in Chapter 1470.09 “Review of Applications,” Chapter 1470.17 “Preservation of Historic Features” and the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines. Staff recommends approval.

Applicant Presentation: Applicant was not present.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STAFF: None.

MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER DROZDOWSKI TO APPROVE ITEM H06-23 SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SIMPSON.

ROLL VOTE WAS TAKEN: ALL INFAVOR, NONE OPPOSED. MOTION APPROVED.

C. H07-23 (200 Capital Ave NE)

Petition, filed by Luke Drallette for a Certificate of Appropriateness for property located at 200 NE Capital Avenue, Battle Creek for a 4-foot high white picket fence in the secondary front, side and rear yards. Parcel #4110-00-016-0.

Application Presentation: Travis Sullivan presented the Staff Report for property located 200 Capital Ave NE. The applicant has filed the subject HDC Certificate of Appropriateness application for the construction of a new 4-foot high wood picket fence located in the secondary front, side and rear yards for the Victorian house located in the Old Maple Street historic district. Staff recommends approval of this petition, as a 4-foot high wooden picket fence is appropriate fencing for a Victorian (about 1850-1910 in the United States) era house.

Applicant Presentation: Luke Drallette was present to speak and answer questions from commissioners.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STAFF:

Commissioner Steinbrunner asked for clarification on the fence location.

Commissioner Davis inquired about the style of the fence and materials being used.

**MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER THORNTON TO APPROVE ITEM H07-23
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SALLEE.**

ROLL VOTE WAS TAKEN: ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED. MOTION APPROVED.

D. 2023 2nd Quarter Administrative Approval Report

Travis Sullivan gave a report of the 2nd Quarter Administrative Approval Report. An inventory of each certificate of appropriateness issued for a minor class was provided in the meeting packet.

COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:

Stacey Konkle Deputy Director of Safe Place, introduced a proposed project at 303 Capital Ave. Safe Place would like to demolish the existing carriage house and build a four until shelter to house Trafficking victims and their children.

Joe Rocha of 265 NE Capital Ave. expressed concerns about adding more residential units in the Capital Ave. area, it is already a congested area and adding more housed would be detrimental to the area. Mr. Rocha would like the Commission to keep that in mind when considering the four until shelter at 303 Capital Ave.

COMMENTS BY COMMISSION AND STAFF MEMBERS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Newman adjourned the meeting at 4:07 p.m.